

(1) analysis of the direct and indirect impacts of Federal rules on the private sector, State and local government, and the Federal Government;

(2) estimates of the costs and benefits of each rule that is likely to have a gross annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more in increased costs; and

(3) recommendations from the Director and public comments to reform or eliminate any Federal regulatory program or program element that is inefficient or is not a sound use of national resources.

TITLE VII—SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCISSIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1996

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses" to be used in connection with investigations of arson at religious institutions, \$12,011,000, available upon enactment of this Act and to remain available until expended.

**INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
INFORMATION SYSTEMS
(RESCISSION)**

Of the funds made available under this heading [for Tax Systems Modernization] in Public Law 104-52, [\$12,011,000] \$16,500,000 are rescinded.

[TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS]

SEC. 801. None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to pay any amount to, or to pay the administrative expenses in connection with, any health plan under the Federal employees health benefit program, when it is made known to the Federal official having authority to obligate or expend such funds that such health plan operates a health care provider incentive plan that does not meet the requirements of section 1876(i)(8)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395mm(i)(8)(A)) for physician incentive plans in contracts with eligible organizations under section 1876 of such Act.]

This Act may be cited as the "Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1997".

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMPSON). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I have conferred with the manager of the bill that is pending and have sought 15 minutes as if in morning business. I do not think I will use that but I want to speak to a juvenile justice bill which I am going to introduce. I ask consent that I be permitted to speak up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI pertaining to the introduction of S. 2062 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DOMENICI. I yield the floor and thank the Chair for recognizing me. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Chair.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, in February 1992, it occurred to me one day after reading some mail from people in North Carolina that the Senate wasn't paying very much attention to the steadily rising Federal debt, and I decided on that February afternoon in 1992 that I would begin a daily report to the Senate specifying the exact Federal debt as of close of business the day before down to the penny. Of course, on Monday it would have to be close of business the previous Friday.

We have not missed a day in making that report. There have been a few times when I was absent when fellow Senators made the report for me.

In any case, Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, September 9, the Federal debt of the United States stood at \$5,214,144,675,542.25.

Five years ago, on September 9, 1991, the record shows that the Federal debt stood at \$3,618,482,000,000 rounded off.

And 10 years ago, September 9, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,106,631,000,000.

Just for the interest in it, we checked the Federal debt of 15 years ago—that was September 9, 1981—at which time the Federal debt stood at \$977,439,000,000.

So those figures alone will show you the escalation of the spending practices of the Congress of the United States, and all the irresponsibility of that lies like a dead cat on the doorstep of the Congress of the United States, where I work and where Members of the House of Representatives work.

Twenty-five years ago, if you want to go back that far, on September 9, 1971, the Federal debt stood at \$415,807,000,000. This report reflects an increase of more than \$4 trillion in Federal debt during the 25 years from 1971 to 1996. If you want the precise figure, the Federal debt has increased during the past 25 years by \$4,798,337,675,542.25.

Mr. President, this is a perfect outrage imposed upon the next generation and the next generation after that and the next generation after that, because they are the ones who are going to have to pay this debt. They are going to have to pay the interest on it, which is enormous. We have all of these promising politicians running around the countryside these days promising everything under the Sun for the taxpayers to pay for, which means that it will be bought on credit and not a thing will be done about this Federal debt. That is precisely why in February 1992 I began to make these reports.

I might add as a matter of interest, Mr. President, that one day when I came to make this report, I stopped in the cloakroom and Senators were waiting for a rollcall vote that had been scheduled by unanimous consent about

10 minutes hence. Just to see what the answers would be, I asked Senators how many million there were in a trillion. They scratched their heads, and I got two or three different answers. Only one of them was correct. Of course, as every schoolboy knows, or is supposed to know, there are a million million in a trillion, and the coming generations are going to have to deal with \$5 million million-plus in debt run up by the Congress of the United States.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Paul Irving, a legislative fellow with the subcommittee, and Bruce Townsend, a fellow with the office of Senator MIKULSKI, be granted floor privileges during deliberations on H.R. 3756, the Treasury, Postal Service, and general Government appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today with my distinguished ranking member, Senator KERREY, I bring before the Senate the Appropriations Committee recommendations on fiscal year 1997 appropriations for the Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President and certain independent agencies.

The bill we are presenting today contains total funding of \$23,487,761,000. This bill is \$324,007,000 above the appropriations provided in fiscal year 1996. The mandatory accounts make up \$320,850,000 of this increase. In other words, this bill is \$3,157,000 in discretionary spending above the fiscal year 1996 level.

Of the totals in this bill we are recommending \$11,291,000,000 for new discretionary spending.

The \$11,291,000,000 the committee proposes for domestic discretionary programs is \$1.354 billion below the President's request. Let me repeat that, Mr. President. This bill is \$1.354 billion below the President's fiscal year 1997 request. The fiscal year 1996 bill was \$1.8 billion below the President's request. That is a reduction of \$3.15 billion below what the President requested in 2 years.

Reaching this level has not been an easy task. We have had to make some very difficult decisions, while trying to ensure that funds are made available to